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Claims

1. An inhibitor of *ycf 24* gene product expression and/or activity for use in a method of treatment of infection of the human or animal body by an organism comprising said gene.

2. An inhibitor according to claim 1 for use in a method of treatment of malaria.

3. A method of inhibiting the growth of an organism comprising the *ycf 24* gene, which method comprises contacting the organism *ex vivo* with an inhibitor of expression and/or activity of the gene product.

4. A method of identifying a compound that inhibits the growth of an organism comprising the *ycf 24* gene, the method comprising

(i) contacting a test compound with the *ycf 24* gene product, and

(ii) determining whether the test compound inhibits the activity of or binds to the product, any such binding or inhibition being indicative that the compound inhibits the growth of the organism.

5. A method of identifying a compound that inhibits the growth of an organism comprising the *ycf 24* gene, the method comprising

(i) contacting a test compound with a test construct comprising a *ycf 24* promoter operably linked to a coding sequence,

(ii) determining whether the test compound inhibits expression driven by the promoter, any such inhibition being indicative that the compound inhibits the growth of the organism.

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6. A method according to claim 4 or 5 in which the organism is a malaria parasite.

7. A method of inhibiting the growth of an organism comprising the *ycf 24* gene, said method comprising contacting the organism *ex vivo* with a compound identified by the method of any one of claims 4 to 6.

8. Use of a compound identified by the method of any one of claims 4 to 6 for the manufacture of a medicament for the treatment of an infection by an organism comprising the *ycf 24* gene.

9. A pharmaceutical composition comprising an inhibitor of *ycf 24* gene product expression and/or activity or a compound identified by the method of any one of claims 4 to 6 and a pharmaceutically acceptable carrier or diluent.

10. A method of preventing or treating infection by a unicellular organism comprising the *ycf 24* gene in a patient, said method comprising administering to the patient an inhibitor of *ycf 24* gene product expression and/or activity or a compound identified by the method of any one of claims 4 to 6.

11. A method according to claim 10 in which the organism is a malaria parasite.

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